IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A two-dimensional mesh implant for hernia care, the two-dimensional mesh implant comprising:

a first annular mesh layer comprising a central opening and an access slit extending toward said central opening, said access slit interrupting an annular path of said first annular mesh layer;

a second annular mesh layer comprising a second annular mesh layer central opening and a second annular mesh layer access slit extending toward said second annular mesh layer central opening, said second annular mesh layer access slit interrupting an annular path of said second annular mesh layer, said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer being superimposed with said central opening being aligned with said second annular mesh layer central opening and said access slit being offset with respect to said second annular mesh layer access slit and said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer being joined together only on one common side of said access slit and said second annular mesh layer access slit based on a peripheral direction, wherein said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer are joined via connection points, said connection points being in a form of seamed points or bonded points, said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer being of identical design, said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer having a congruent shape, said access slit and said second annular mesh layer access slit being offset with respect to one another by an angle of 180°.

2 - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A two-dimensional mesh implant for hernia care, the two-dimensional mesh implant comprising:

a first annular mesh layer comprising a first annular mesh layer surface defining a first annular mesh layer central opening and a first annular mesh layer access slit, said first annular mesh layer access slit extending in a direction of said first annular mesh layer central opening, wherein one annular edge portion of said first annular mesh layer is located at a spaced location from another annular edge portion of said first annular mesh layer via said first annular mesh layer access slit;

a second annular mesh layer comprising a second annular mesh layer surface defining a second annular mesh layer central opening and a second annular mesh layer access slit, said second annular mesh layer access slit extending in a direction of said second annular mesh layer central opening, wherein one annular edge portion of said second annular mesh layer is located at a spaced location from another annular edge portion of said second annular mesh layer via said second annular mesh layer access slit, said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer being superimposed such that said first annular mesh layer central opening is aligned with said second annular mesh layer central opening and said first annular mesh layer access slit is offset with respect to said second annular mesh layer access slit, said first annular mesh layer access slit and said second annular mesh layer access slit defining a common connection side of said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer,

said first annular mesh layer being connected to said second annular mesh layer only on said common connection side via connection points, said connection points comprising one of seamed points and bonded points, at least one of said connection points being positioned along an inner circumferential edge of said first annular mesh layer and an inner circumferential edge of said second annular mesh layer and at least another one of said connection points being positioned along an outer edge of said first annular mesh layer and an outer edge of said second annular mesh layer, said inner circumferential edge of said first annular mesh layer defining at least a portion of said first annular mesh layer central opening, said inner circumferential edge of said second annular mesh layer defining at least a portion of said second annular mesh layer central opening, said first annular mesh layer being identical to said second annular mesh layer, said first annular mesh layer having a first annular mesh layer shape, said second annular mesh layer having a second annular mesh layer shape, said first annular mesh layer shape being substantially equal to said second annular mesh layer shape, said first annular mesh layer access slit and said second annular mesh layer access slit being offset with respect to one another by an angle of 180°.

10. (Currently Amended) A two-dimensional mesh implant for hernia care, the two-dimensional mesh implant comprising:

a first annular mesh layer comprising a first annular mesh layer surface defining a first annular mesh layer central opening and a first annular mesh layer access slit, said first annular mesh layer access slit extending in a direction of said first annular mesh layer central opening,

wherein one annular edge portion of said first annular mesh layer is located at a spaced location from another annular edge portion of said first annular mesh layer via said first annular mesh layer access slit;

a second annular mesh layer comprising a second annular mesh layer surface defining a second annular mesh layer central opening and a second annular mesh layer access slit, said second annular mesh layer access slit extending in a direction of said second annular mesh layer central opening, wherein one annular edge portion of said second annular mesh layer is located at a spaced location from another annular edge portion of said second annular mesh layer via said second annular mesh layer access slit, said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer being superimposed such that said first annular mesh layer central opening is aligned with said second annular mesh layer central opening and said first annular mesh layer access slit is offset with respect to said second annular mesh layer access slit, said first annular mesh layer access slit and said second annular mesh layer access slit defining a common connection side of said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer, said first annular mesh layer being connected to said second annular mesh layer only on said common connection side, wherein said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer is formed of a laser-cut mesh web material, said laser-cut mesh web material comprising polypropylene, said first annular mesh layer being identical to said second annular mesh layer, said first annular mesh layer having a first annular mesh layer shape, said second annular mesh layer having a second annular mesh layer shape, said first annular mesh layer shape being substantially equal to said second annular mesh layer shape, said first annular mesh layer

access slit and said second annular mesh layer access slit being offset with respect to one another by an angle of 180°.

11. (Currently Amended) A two-dimensional mesh implant for hernia care, the two-dimensional mesh implant comprising:

a first annular mesh layer comprising a first annular mesh layer central opening and a first annular mesh layer access slit, said first annular mesh layer access slit extending in a direction of said first annular mesh layer central opening, wherein one annular edge portion of said first annular mesh layer is located at a spaced location from another annular edge portion of said first annular mesh layer via said first annular mesh layer access slit;

a second annular mesh layer comprising a second annular mesh layer central opening and a second annular mesh layer access slit, said second annular mesh layer access slit extending in a direction of said second annular mesh layer central opening, wherein one annular edge portion of said second annular mesh layer is located at a spaced location from another annular edge portion of said second annular mesh layer via said second annular mesh layer access slit, said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer being superimposed such that said first annular mesh layer central opening is aligned with said second annular mesh layer central opening and said first annular mesh layer access slit is arranged at a position that is offset with respect to said second annular mesh layer access slit, said first annular mesh layer access slit and said second annular mesh layer access slit defining a common connection side of said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer,

said first annular mesh layer being connected to said second annular mesh layer only on said common connection side, said first annular mesh layer and said second annular mesh layer comprising a continuous, body-compatible coating containing metal, said first annular mesh layer being substantially identical to said second annular mesh layer, said first annular mesh layer having a first annular mesh layer shape, said second annular mesh layer having a second annular mesh layer shape, said first annular mesh layer shape being substantially congruent to said second annular mesh layer shape, said first annular mesh layer access slit and said second annular mesh layer access slit being offset with respect to one another by an angle of 180°.

12. (Previously Presented) A mesh implant in accordance with claim 11, wherein said coating is a titanium-containing coating having a thickness of less than 2 μm.

13. (Previously Presented) A mesh implant in accordance with claim 12, wherein said titanium-containing coasting has a thickness from 5 nm to 700 nm.

14 - 15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A mesh implant in accordance with claim 1, wherein each connection point is located at a spaced location from another one of said connection points.

17. (Previously Presented) A mesh implant in accordance with claim 16, wherein one

or more of said connection points is located adjacent to said central opening and said second mesh layer central opening.

18. (Previously Presented) A mesh implant in accordance with claim 9, wherein each connection point is located at a spaced location from another one of said connection points.

19. (Previously Presented) A mesh implant in accordance with claim 10, wherein said first annular mesh layer is connected to said second annular mesh layer only on said common connection side at a plurality of connection points, each of said connection points being located at a spaced location from another one of said connection points.

20. (Previously Presented) A mesh implant in accordance with claim 19, wherein at least one of said connection points is located adjacent to said first annular mesh layer central opening and said second annular mesh layer central opening.

21. (Previously Presented) A mesh implant in accordance with claim 11, wherein said first annular mesh layer is connected to said second annular mesh layer only on said common connection side at a plurality of connection points, each of said connection points being located at a spaced location from another one of said connection points.

22. (Previously Presented) A mesh implant in accordance with claim 21, wherein at

least one of said connection points is located adjacent to said first annular mesh layer central opening and said second annular mesh layer central opening.